



File No. ....

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

S. 2, Special Branch, ~~Supreme~~

REPORT

Date... May 7, 1935.

Subject.....

Maurice (Morris) Bro.

Made by..... D.S. Sansom.

Forwarded by.....

B. B. Gurney, D.S.

Maurice Bro, Russian Jew, age 26/7, residing at Passage No. 9, House No. 7, Route de Grouchy, was born and educated in Shanghai. He speaks English and Russian with equal facility, besides having a smattering of French. Invariably he poses as a Briton.

He recently established a business at No. 650 Szechuen Road, known as the Rae Trading Company. In this connexion he brought himself prominently to public notice at the beginning of this year when he claimed to have invented a perpetual motion machine which he named "R.A.E." Particulars of the machine together with a photograph of the inventor were published in the Shanghai Evening Post & Mercury on February 1, 1935, a copy of which is attached hereto. Whether the machine is capable of perpetual motion of its own accord is a matter seriously contested by interested parties. At least two individuals or concerns have requested a demonstration, but in each instance, although commercial agreements were drafted to permit of a demonstration under conditions which would guarantee the inventor any rights he may claim, he finally failed to respond. Various statements of substantial offers for the discovery have been circulated by Bro. Another story circulated by him in connexion with his invention is to the effect that his person is protected at night by a Chinese bodyguard. Bro is a nephew of J. Benavitch, bullion broker, who from time to time assists him financially.

During 1925/6 Bro was employed with Pathe Orient, Ltd. at the firm's factory No. 1109 Route de Zikawei. He was discharged on account of a number of thefts occurring in the factory. These thefts could not be directly attributed to

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Station, .....

## REPORT

Date. .... 19

- 2 -

Subject. ....

Made by. ....

Forwarded by. ....

him, but the situation improved after he had been discharged. At about this period he is said to have brought his parents into disrepute and to have since been disowned by them.

In September, 1932, he was employed with Clarke's Inquiry Agency. In this capacity he undertook one inquiry only, during the course of which he attempted to double-cross his employer, much to the latter's embarrassment. His dismissal in October, 1932 was expedited by the theft of two pistols from Mr. Clarke's office. Bro was strongly suspected of a part in the theft, but no proof was forthcoming.

Some time later in Canton he came to blows with the notorious criminal, <sup>\*</sup>Albert Rosenbaum. The pair met again in the Del Monte Cabaret, Shanghai, and another fight occurred. The real cause of the enmity is believed to centre around duplicity on the part of one of them in connexion with some under-handed affair. On March 9, 1935, Bro spoke with glee in spreading information of Rosenbaum's arrest in Paris on a charge of dealing in narcotics.

Towards the latter end of 1934 Bro claimed to have ingratiated himself with the local American Consular Authorities, and that he could, in return for a practical consideration, facilitate aliens' entry into the United States.

Quite recently he has claimed to be on good terms with S.M.P. Headquarters and to have connexions with the French Police also. The purpose of such claims is unknown.

File 278

9 MAY 1935

A. Samson.

D. S.

D. C. (Special Branch).

*Confidential*

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. 6696

Section 2, Special Br.  
REPORT

Date May 16, 1935.

Subject Armed Robbery at Messrs. Sennet Freres Jewellery Shop on May 15, 1935.

Made by D.S. Sansom

Forwarded by *B. B. Ernest D.S.*

In connection with the armed robbery carried out by three foreigners at Messrs. Sennet Freres Jewellery Shop on May 15, I respectfully suggest that a likely suspect in the case is Maurice (Morris) Bro, a Russian-Jew. Besides being suspected of complicity in the theft of two pistols during 1932 this individual has developed strong criminal tendencies.

A report on his antecedents was submitted on May 7, 1935.

*A. Sansom.*

D. S.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Deputy Commissioner (Special Branch)

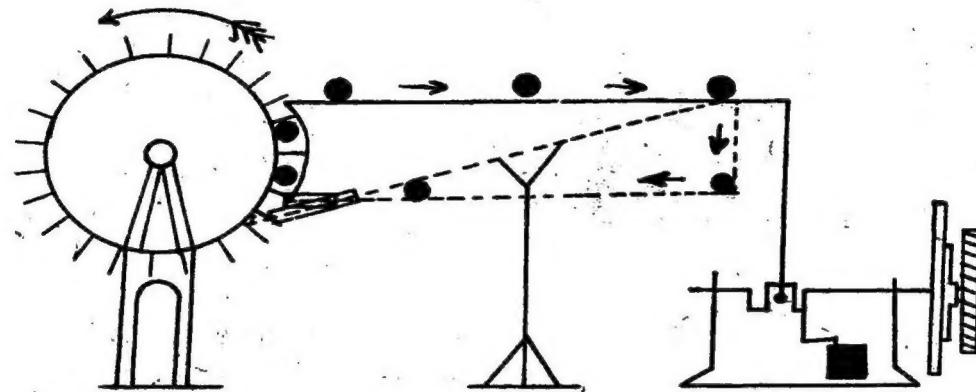
*X**D.S. (Linen)*

Information. The name "Sennet Freres" is recorded in the small diary found on the "Unknown Bed."

*W.H.*

16 MAY 1935

## Another Solution To Riddle Of Perpetual Motion Claimed; Shanghai Inventor Enthusiastic Over Device; Boasts 51 Days Self Operation



THIS is what soon  
Mr. Maurice Bro, local in-  
ventor, calls  
R.A.E., a ma-  
chine which  
once started  
is supposed to  
"do its stuff"  
until natural  
dissipation—  
another stab at  
the problem of  
perpetual motion.  
Patent has been applied  
for to the United States Govern-  
ment and it is expected to be  
in the hands of the inventor

"After working off and on  
for a period of two years I  
have at last discovered a  
certain mechanical device  
which I call R.A.E. and which  
works absolutely of its own  
accord with no fuel of any  
kind, magnet or heating," Mr.  
Bro modestly states. "It works  
by a combination of weights and  
is able to produce unlimited  
power of its own accord. And  
it needs no overseer or anyone  
to look after it."

Meanwhile, like many an-  
other inventor, he finds "they're  
after me," meaning prospective  
promoters and outright buyers.

He is a bit cagey about divulg-  
ing the details of the me-  
chanism saying that he lost a  
previous invention for a braking  
device on automobiles. How-  
ever, with the patent almost  
in his pocket, he is getting  
ready to open an office and  
display room and meet all  
humorists and skeptics.

The above illustration is sup-  
posed to show how the weight  
of the balls, which can be as  
much as 10-pounds, act as a  
leverage to turn the wheel,  
simply by falling onto a teeter-  
totter. It's said to be running  
alone on its fifty-first day today.  
The whole is enclosed.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE	
S. B. REGISTRY.	
No. D	6696
Date	2 5 1935

F.M. 1

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Shanghai, May 2nd 1935

To S. 2.

Please let me  
know the antecedents,  
present address and  
activities of a man  
called Bro who  
professes to be able to  
furnish secret and  
valuable political  
information. Bro  
used to work for the  
Clarke Enquiry Agency.

S. S. Larson W.H.  
BBG 2/5/35

Confidential  
Source

## Two Russians Sentenced For Watch Theft

### Convicted To Taking Japanese Woman's Timepieces

A Russian Jewish boy of 19, Bernhard Miller, and Morris Bro, 10 years his senior, and of the same nationality, stood in the prisoners' dock at the First Special District Court yesterday morning and tried to explain how it happened that they came into possession of two wrist watches which were the property of Mrs. Kazuura, Japanese.

They were charged with stealing the watches. This, they denied, although they admitted that they did take them to a pawnshop. Both were sentenced to 80 days in jail.

Miller, who is the son of a stoutish, elderly woman who tries to make a living selling photographs of motion picture stars and second hand magazines on Rue Chu Pao San and streets tributary to "Blood Alley," attempted to take most of the blame on his own shoulders.

According to the prosecution, the two accused men made a tour of the Hongkew district on October 8 in the company of a British sailor. They visited several beer halls, the sailor paying the bill. They eventually came to a Japanese massage establishment at House 8, Lane 93 Boone Road. They entered the place as customers, it appears, but didn't buy anything.

The two accused went to an upstairs room with the complainant and another Japanese woman. The two women were called back downstairs to wait on other customers and the two men were left alone in the place, at least, for a few minutes.

At any rate, after the pair had departed and the sailor had also gone his way, the complainant discovered two wrist watches she kept in a dressing table drawer in the room upstairs were missing. She notified the police.

Police search of pawnshops produced the two watches a few days ago and Wednesday, the two boys were brought to the Hongkew Police Station for questioning and identification. The pawnshop owner identified them and they were accordingly locked up.

Bro told the court yesterday that Miller had given him the watches to pawn and that he didn't know they were stolen. Miller admitted this but added that the watches had been given to him by a friend. He couldn't name the friend, however.

Since both men had been in the room the day the watches were stolen, the court ruled that they must have had guilty knowledge of the theft.